



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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EMPORIA, KANSAS WOMAN SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTING CRACK COCAINE WITHIN 1000 FEET OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Sara D. Dunmire**, 22, Emporia, Kansas, was sentenced on December 17, 2003, by U.S. District Judge Sam A. Crow to **ten years in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by eight years of supervised release.**

Melgren said that Dunmire was found guilty on July 15, 2003, following a five day jury trial of one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of an elementary school.

Melgren stated that according to trial testimony from May 22, 2002, through November 18, 2002, Dunmire conspired with Patrick O. Sharkey and others to distribute more than 5 grams (more than .18 ounce) of crack cocaine. On July 28, 2002, Dunmire sold approximately 3 grams (approximately .11 ounce) of crack cocaine from Sharkey's residence, which was located within 1,000 feet of an Emporia elementary school, to an informant working for the Emporia Police Department.

Co-defendant **Patrick O. Sharkey**, 28, Emporia, Kansas, was sentenced on August 14, 2003, to fifteen years and eight months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by eight years of supervised release. Sharkey entered a guilty plea on April 8, 2003, to one count of distributing approximately 6.57 grams (approximately .23 ounce) of crack cocaine on October 11, 2002, within 1000 feet of an elementary school.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Emporia Police Department in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony Mattivi in this prosecution.